

CRISIS IN MEXICAN "INVASION" SEEN IN CARRANZA'S WITHDRAWAL DEMAND

PLEA OF RIGGS BANK OFFICIALS FOR QUICK TRIAL IS OVERRULED

Case Against Glover and Flathers, on Charge of Perjury, Will Come Up May 8, Justice Siddons Decides—Bankers Must Face All of Government's Accusations.

The trial of Charles G. Glover, William J. Flather, and Henry H. Flather, charged with perjury, will be heard in Criminal Court, No. 1, beginning May 8.

The bankers will have to meet the accusation of the Government as outlined in the bill of particulars containing 932 items of alleged stock transactions.

This was the decision reached by Justice Siddons in denying the motions of the bankers for an earlier trial and for a statement limited to 100 alleged transactions in stocks.

Touching on the subject of an earlier assignment, the decision reads:

"Upon consideration of the motion to assign said cases for trial on an early date, and of the affidavit of the attorney of the United States in response thereto, by which it appears that he has assigned and advanced the case of the defendants for trial on May 8, 1916, and of the oral arguments and authorities cited, the said motions are hereby overruled."

BILL IS CALLED REASONABLE.

The question of the bill of particulars is disposed of in quite as brief a manner. With reference to this subject, the opinion reads:

"With respect to the motions for bill of particulars, filed by the defendants on April 5, 1916, it appears that on April 7, 1916, the attorney of the United States filed herein a bill of particulars, entitled in this case and in cases numbered 31,027, 31,028, and 31,029 on the criminal docket.

"On the oral argument in support of the above mentioned motions for bills of particulars it was insisted on behalf of the defendants that the bill of particulars filed by the attorney of the United States, as above stated, was for several reasons no such bill of particulars as was called for by them. Upon consideration of the oral argument, made as above stated, and of the authorities cited, and of the said motions for bills of particulars, and of the bill of particulars filed by the attorneys of the United States as stated, the court is of the opinion that the bill of particulars so filed, reasonably complies with the requirements of said motions, and the same are therefore overruled."

WANT TRIAL SET FOR APRIL 17.

In their motions counsel for the bank officials ask that the trial of the bankers be set for April 17.

In the bill of particulars furnished by District Attorney Laskey on April 7 there were 932 stock and bond transactions cited which were alleged to have occurred between the Riggs Bank and the brokerage firm of Lewis Johnson and Company. Counsel for the indicted bankers ask that a more reasonable bill of particulars be furnished them.

Counsel for the bankers, while expressing regret at their failure to obtain an earlier trial date than May 8, decline to discuss the case further than to say that they will be prepared to proceed with the trial when it is called. District Attorney Laskey today had no comment to make.

Arguments were heard last Saturday by Justice Siddons in connection with the move of Messrs. Glover, Flather, and Flather to force the district attorney to an early trial of the perjury charge against them. It was alleged by the defendants that if the trial were delayed until May 8, as planned by Mr. Laskey, the court proceedings might extend beyond the time when the Riggs National Bank must make application for a renewal of its charter from the Comptroller of the Currency.

Opposed to Covington. Attorneys for the indicted bank officials whose indictment was an angle of the court controversy between the bank and the Treasury Department, told the court that word had come to them that Comptroller John Skelton Williams might seize upon an excuse and not let

sue the bank a new charter. They feared, so the attorneys said, that Mr. Williams would withhold the charter because three of the officers of the bank were under indictment on a perjury accusation.

George P. Hoover, who made the principal argument for the Glover-Flather motion to expedite, insisted the trial should not be delayed beyond April 24. Mr. Hoover and other attorneys declared the defendants had been awaiting trial since October last, but had been put off by the district attorney.

An interesting sidelight of the "speed up" motion of the defendants was the development that they were opposed to trial before Chief Justice Covington, and had so informed Mr. Laskey in January.

Sought Definite Bill.

Another plea of the defendants which the court also overruled today, was for a definite bill of particulars concerning the stock transactions which Mr. Laskey intends to cite in an attempt to provide that the Riggs bank deny in stocks. There are more than 600 entries, it is alleged, standing on the books of Lewis Johnson & Co. In the name of the Riggs Bank and the defendant's demanded to know what particular entries will be presented to the jury in connection with the perjury charge.

This charge, it will be recalled, grew out of the signing of an affidavit by Messrs. Glover, Flather, and Flather, that the bank had not dealt in stocks. It is understood that the defense will endeavor to show that this statement was not perjury; that the entries on the Johnson books cover not transactions for the bank, but for the bank's customers.

Renders Decision in Case of Riggs Bankers



—Photo by Harris-Ewing.
JUSTICE SIDDONS.

FAVORS DISTRICT DELEGATE IN HOUSE

Senate Subcommittee Takes Favorable Action on Poin-dexter Measure.

The judiciary subcommittee, headed by Senator Pomerene, today voted to make a favorable report to the District Committee on the Poin-dexter bill for a delegate from the District of Columbia in the House.

The bill was modified to eliminate the Presidential primary feature. The Chamberlain resolution for an equal suffrage amendment for the District will be either unfavorably reported or withheld for a time.

The Poin-dexter bill provides for a single delegate. The plan of providing for a delegate in the Senate as well as in the House was not adopted. It is expected that the Poin-dexter bill will arouse much discussion in the District Committee. It would provide for woman suffrage.

Railway Officials Refuse to Mediate

Washington - Virginia Railway Heads Say There's "No Strike, Only Lockout."

"We have nothing to mediate." This was the answer of officials of the Washington-Virginia Railway Company when approached today on the question of mediating the grievances between them and their striking trainmen.

The offer of mediation was made by Martin A. Knapp, chairman of the board of conciliation and mediation of the Department of Labor. Chairman Knapp was told by the officials that, while they appreciated his good offices and those of J. W. Hanger, his assistant, the company realized no necessity for mediation. The company insists that there is no strike on its lines, the officials claiming that they took the initiative and locked out forty or fifty trainmen for organizing a union. Chairman Knapp was informed that the officials would be glad to talk with the locked-out men as individuals, but not as strikers or members of a union. The unionists insist on being recognized as such.

Some 1,000 citizens of Falls Church who are said to sympathize with the strikers will meet in that village tonight. Addresses will be made by L. A. Cernie and several prominent citizens of the locality. The citizens of Clarendon last night adopted resolutions indorsing the stand taken by the strikers and pledged to boycott the Washington-Virginia line, according to the strikers.

Gregory Refuses Senate Request

Attorney General Will Not Give Information on Standard Oil Operations.

Attorney General Gregory today refused to accede to the demands of the Kenyon Senate resolution calling on the Department of Justice for information concerning the operations of the Standard Oil Company. The attorney general held that it would be incompatible with public interest to give the information to the Senate.

ONLY SUSSEX IN ZONE NEAR U-BOAT ATTACK

London Cites Facts to Show Channel Liner Alone Could Have Been Victim.

REPORTS ARE COMPARED

LONDON, April 13.—Positive proof that the Sussex was torpedoed was seen by British officials today in the German admission that an unidentified steamer was attacked by a submarine in the same place and at practically the same time the channel liner was damaged.

It is officially stated that no other vessel was torpedoed in the channel at the time mentioned in the German note transmitted to Washington.

The Sussex was damaged at 3:50 p. m. on March 24. The German note states that the vessel attacked by the submarine was torpedoed at 3:55 p. m.

According to the French official report the Sussex was south of Dungeness buoys and about in middle channel when the explosion occurred. The German note says the vessel attacked was south of Dungeness buoys and about in mid-channel when she was torpedoed.

The Sussex was steaming at about sixteen knots an hour. The German note says the vessel torpedoed was steaming at about eighteen knots.

The entire forward part of the Sussex was torn away by the explosion. The German note says

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FRENCH REPULSE HILL 304 ATTACK

Curtain of Fire Stops German Storming Column With Heavy Losses.

PARIS, April 13.—The Germans launched their first direct attack on Hill 304, one of the keystones of the French defense northwest of Verdun, late yesterday afternoon.

The war office announces that the assault was stopped by a curtain of fire from French guns. The Germans emerged from the Malmout woods east of the strongly fortified height. They immediately came under the hot fire of French guns from a neighboring sector, and but few German detachments succeeded in leaving their own trenches. The attack was completely stopped.

The night was calm on the whole Verdun front.

Brings New Forces.

The Germans for the past twenty-four hours have been bringing up fresh forces to the Verdun front, concentrating apparently for another heavy smash west of the Meuse.

Some of the fresh divisions are reported to be coming from the Russian front. The German front in France and Flanders has been so thoroughly stripped of all reserves that no more large forces can be withdrawn for action at Verdun.

To protect the thin German line west of Verdun, the Germans have established a bristling array of machine guns.

Youth Gets Life Sentence For Murder of Cripple

NEWCASTLE, Va., April 13.—Robert Deas, nineteen years old, was convicted today on the charge of murdering Louise Thomas, a cripple, eight years old, and then throwing her body in a creek.

Receives Carranza's Withdrawal Note



—Photo by Harris-Ewing.
ELISEO ARREDONDO.

CARRANZISTAS FIRE ON U. S. TROOPERS

Americans, However, Escaped Injury in Passing Through Parral.

SAN ANTONIO, April 12.—Carranzistas soldiers and citizens in Parral fired on American troops when the latter marched through the city. Consul Letcher reported to General Funston today, quoting advices from General Gutierrez, the defacto commander at Parral.

There were no casualties, according to the advices.

Following receipt of the Parral advices, Funston called attention to the lack of co-operation by Carranzistas in the search for Pancho Villa. He denied Gutierrez's claim that the appearance of the Americans took the Parral soldiers and civilians by surprise.

The Carranzistas have twice allowed Villa to slip through their lines. Funston declared, once only recently, when the bandit was reported walked in to the south by a strong cordon of defacto troops reported spread east and west of Parral.

Prepared for any eventually, the American forces will continue their hunt for Villa until orders to discontinue the chase are received from the War Department, or Villa is killed or captured, Major Gen. Funston stated today.

Funston denied the American advance forces were in danger in case their supplies should be cut off. He intimated he has full confidence in the ability of the Americans to take care of themselves.

Funston has not yet received any official intimation of the request for withdrawal of the expedition.

Heat Plant Tunnel Work Commenced

Ground Broken in Potomac Park For Channels for Pipes and Cables.

Work of constructing the tunnels through which the steam pipes and electric cables of the central heating and lighting plant will run was begun today.

First grounds was broken in upper Potomac Park for the tunnel which will hold the pipes and wires serving the Treasury, State, War, and Navy building, White House, and other Government structures in the western section of the city.

The tunnels will be six and one-half feet high and seven feet wide, almost as large as railroad tunnels. Three miles of tunnels will be dug before the work is completed. The company which went to work on the job today with a giant excavating machine expects to complete the tunneling within twelve months.

In the meantime the opposition to the location of the power plant at Fourteenth and Water streets continues.

Pleads for Uniform Bills of Lading

Declaring that in two single instances fraudulent bills of lading amounting to \$11,000,000 had been negotiated without the guilty persons being prosecuted, Charles E. Haught, of New York, is venting the United States Chamber of Commerce, today made a plea before the House Interstate Commerce Committee for the Pomerene bill providing a system of uniform bills of lading.

President Wilson has indorsed the bill.

NOTE ASKING U. S. TO END VILLA PURSUIT NOW BEING DECODED

Ambassador-Designate Arredondo Expected to Present Formal Demands Late Today or Tomorrow—Administration Is Facing Problem of Turning or Fighting.

The Carranza Demand

"In consequence of the facts previously expressed, as no final agreement has been reached as to the terms of a treaty to regulate in general the reciprocal passage of troops over the dividing line for the purpose of pursuing outlaws who may henceforth commit depredations in one or the other country, the Mexican government judges it convenient to suspend for the present all discussion or negotiations in this particular, or founded on the circumstances that the expedition sent by the United States Government to pursue Villa is without foundation in virtue of the nonexistence of a previous agreement, formal and definite.

"And as that expedition has fulfilled its object, in so far as it will be able to do so, as the party headed by Villa has already been dispersed; and, finally, because there are Mexican troops in sufficient number pursuing them, and more forces are being sent to exterminate the rest of the beaten party, the first chief of the constitutional army, charged with the executive power of the nation, considers that it is already time to treat with the United States Government for the withdrawal of their forces from our territory."

—From the note of Carranza's secretary for foreign affairs to Secretary Lansing.

Eliseo Arredondo, ambassador-designate of the Mexican de facto government, has been instructed by General Carranza to demand the withdrawal of the American forces from Mexico.

The quoted extracts in the box above are taken from the formal instructions and contain the gist of the Carranza demand.

President Wilson is now confronting the choice of withdrawing the expedition, or, by ignoring the demand, inviting war.

Coming at a time when the relations between this Government and Germany are almost at the breaking point, the demand from Queretaro has created a profound sensation in Washington.

It is a question of giving up the pursuit of Villa to avenge the bandit's brazen raid and massacre at Columbus, N. M., or of turning back.

Only several days ago, when The Times published the text of the original orders to General Funston, which would have authorized a withdrawal at any time the quest appeared hopeless, the Administration officials issued indignant denials that such a withdrawal was contemplated. For the third time in six weeks the White House announced that the expedition was in Mexico to "get Villa."

SITUATION GRAVELY CRITICAL.

From a military standpoint the situation is gravely critical. Pershing's force, believed to number not more than 10,000 men, is scattered in small detachments along a line 400 miles long, the head of which penetrates into the wildest section of Mexico. On either flank and behind the Americans the forces of Carranza are gathered. Before them the guerilla bands of Villa are lurking.

Back on the border, stretched out along a boundary line of 2,000 miles, are the remnants of America's army—8,000 men. Only 4,000 more exist anywhere in continental United States. To send any of these border forces to re-enforce Pershing would be to lay the border open to attack. President Wilson having, in consideration of the sensibilities of Carranza and his followers, resisted pressure to call out the national guard to serve as a border patrol, army officers state it would now take three weeks at least to mobilize the militia for service.

The disposition of some officials close to the President is to keep the troops in Mexico. It is admitted that circumstances, principally of a military character, may force a withdrawal. Never before has the American army appeared so small.

President Wilson, presumably because of the situ-